

PRESS STATEMENT

July 24, 2013

Today the Peoria Police Department announced that they recommend no charges against Sen. Rick Murphy in relation to a recent allegation made by a young man in his home. The young man later retracted his statement and there is no evidence to support it, while there is evidence that contradicts it. For example, another 18-year-old foster son who moved out in April told investigators that he didn't know of anything like what the allegation described, despite sharing a bedroom with the accuser for four years. He also said he didn't believe Sen. Murphy would do that.

Sen. Murphy has never abused any child, much less one who lived in his home.

The young man in question is a loved and valued part of Sen. Murphy's family. After his retraction, he reached out to the family for reconciliation, which we are hopeful can happen over time. As we move toward healing our family, we will get him and our family whatever help each of them may need. We ask that the press and public respect our family's privacy and allow us to pursue healing in private.

As for the 2011 situation, the investigative process worked as it was supposed to. The young man's statement was full of contradictions with every other witness and he even contradicted himself. It was painfully obvious that a very troubled young man tried to manipulate people to do what he wanted without regard for the damage it could cause others. The Murphys hold no ill will toward this young man and hope he has gotten, or will get, the help he clearly needs and wish him a bright future.

Sen. Murphy and his family will not have any further comment about the police investigation related to this situation or any of the specifics in the reports.

The CPS situation is ongoing. As reported, CPS felt our four adopted daughters were safe in our home, in spite of the allegations, for 3-1/2 weeks. They were removed July 17 with no explanation given other than the "ongoing investigation," which had already been true for

weeks. They refused to give the specific reason (what had changed) as required by law. The police reports make clear that the police told CPS July 16 that they would be closing the investigation. It appears that CPS has taken the Murphys' daughters to retaliate for the fact that the girls refused to be interviewed, as is their right.

CPS may be trying to coerce them into saying what CPS wants them to say. It is also possible that they simply are retaliating as much as they believe circumstances allow for Sen. Murphy's past criticism of CPS and its lack of public accountability. The Murphys were lied to by CPS about whether the girls would be placed with family. In fact, contrary to state law, NO EFFORT AT ALL was made to place them with family members and CPS sought a group home placement for them an hour before they even arrived at the Murphys' home. CPS has also failed, in fact, refused, to give the Murphys ANY information about when their hearing is supposed to be, in violation of a requirement to provide written notification within 24 hours of the petition being filed.

The Murphys call on CPS to return their daughters immediately or justify why they will not. At the very least, the Murphys want the notice required by law.